

## **ENGINEERING FORUM TELECONFERENCE MINUTES**

**February 7, 2001**

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

Chet Janowski introduced Ray Cody and Sharon Hayes, the two new Engineering Forum members from Region 1. Sharon joined EPA in 1990 and has been an RPM in the New England office for the past five years. Ray is with the RCRA Corrective Action Section and is currently working on projects involving chemical oxidation and monitored natural attenuation. The co-chairs welcomed the new members to the forum.

### **TECHNICAL TOPIC**

Galo Jackson, an RPM from Region 4, discussed the Tower Chemical site, a pesticide site in Florida at which 90 percent of the analyticals were “unidentifiable” or “tentatively unidentifiable” constituents, with the remainder of the chemicals of concern identified as pesticides. Most of the contaminants are not being picked up by the risk assessment.

Ken Brown (NERL/Las Vegas) informed Galo that the Technical Support Center at NERL in Las Vegas has several research chemists who may be able to provide assistance in identifying unknown contaminants. Galo should contact Ken for points of contact at NERL.

Jon Josephs (Region 2) added that the National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) in Cincinnati can assist with toxicological studies. Harlal Choudhury (Superfund Health Risk Technical Support Center) may be able to recommend points of contact at NCEA.

### **CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES**

#### ***Oxygenates Issue Paper***

Trish Erickson (NRMRL/Cinc.) reported that the Oxygenates Issue Paper has been completed and is undergoing clearance. Camille Hueni and JoAnn Cola will send their signed clearance forms to Trish as soon as possible.

#### ***Screening Data Collection Paper***

Ed Mead (USACE) said that he is still in the process of tracking the sources of data presented in the matrix, and will update the forum on his progress during the March call.

#### ***Dioxin Reassessment***

Although Joann Camacho (USACE) was unable to be on the call, Harry Ball (Region 9) mentioned that he forwarded Joann a limited amount of data from Region 9. More specifically, Harry mentioned concerns about dioxin in marine sediments, dioxin-like PCBs, and thermal oxidation systems. Neil Thompson (Region 10) said that his Region is concerned about dioxin-laden air plumes from installation burners and metal recovery units. Forum members discussed whether the reassessment would cover completed sites. It was unclear whether closed sites would be revisited following the reassessment. Frank Vavra (Region 3) mentioned that milk is a significant source of dioxin exposure. Harry Ball (Region 9) said that the food supply, especially beef, chicken, pork, and fresh water fish, accounts for the majority of exposure in humans. In a follow-up email, Harry noted that, while milk has a relatively low concentration of dioxin-TEQ compared to other food types, the typical contact rate is high, making milk a significant source of exposure.

Jon Josephs (Region 2) informed members that the Science Advisory Board is behind schedule and will not finish their review of the reassessment until April.

### **NEW PROJECT UPDATES/LAST MONTH'S ACTION ITEM CARRY-OVERS**

#### ***Technical Topics and Future Directions “Evergreen” Lists***

Frank Vavra (Region 3) sent the draft evergreen list of technical topics to the co-chairs. The co-chairs will distribute this list to the entire Forum for comment. Frank mentioned that the USACE training course list might be a good source of technical topics. The co-chairs will send these lists to Keith Arnold, who will forward them to the Forum. Suggestions and comments should be sent directly to Frank Vavra. In addition, another list will be initiated on a quarterly basis by Dave Reisman (NRMRL/Cinc.) and will cover issues being researched at the labs. The forum also needs to compile a list of two or three projects that will be undertaken in the coming year. Suggestions should be sent to JoAnn Cola (Region 9) as soon as possible.

### ***Ecological Risk Assessment Forum Joint Projects***

The Ecological Risk Assessment Forum Joint Projects Workgroup (Mark Granger, Jon Bornholm and Camille Hueni) will report back to the forum on their progress at the spring meeting in San Diego. The workgroup will arrange a conference call to discuss the project in greater detail.

### ***ITRC***

Jim Harrington (NYSDEC) contacted the ITRC co-chairs to get more information on the ITRC monthly conference calls. He was unable to gather useful information. The co-chairs will ask Rich Steimle (TIO) to clarify this issue during the next co-chair call.

### **MEMBERSHIP ISSUES**

#### ***Increasing Representation***

Representatives are still needed from Regions 3 and 7. The co-chairs will discuss this issue offline.

### **SPRING MEETING**

The contract with the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina has been signed and EF members will be able to reserve their rooms starting the week of March 1, 2001. The meeting will be the week of May 6-11, 2001, with Sunday and Friday being travel days. Monday morning will devoted to break-out business sessions, while the afternoon is reserved for a joint session among all the forums. Tuesday will also consist of joint sessions all day, although the Ground Water Forum has requested their own afternoon break-out session. Wednesday and Thursday will be break-out days with each forum meeting separately.

The agenda planning committee is trying to schedule a field trip to North Island on Wednesday morning. Wednesday afternoon will tentatively consist of technical sessions, possibly with the Navy. Ali Tavelli (Wyoming) is working with Karen Miller to schedule sessions with the Navy. The planning committee is also trying to organize a panel session consisting of RPMs from Superfund, Federal Facilities, and USACE to discuss sediment issues at select sites. DOE will be discussing long term stewardship on Monday afternoon.

A joint forum dinner is being planned for Monday night. Camille Hueni will help Chet Janowski organize this event. Chet is also trying to organize a trip to a baseball game for Tuesday night.

The co-chairs would like to have the agenda finalized by April 1, 2001.

Rich Ho (Region 2) suggested that speakers be told to bring hard copies of their presentations to the meeting.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### ***Geosynthetic Clay Liners***

Steve Kinser received a call from John Delashmit (Region 7) asking for information on geosynthetic clay liners (GCL). Trish Erickson mentioned two reports that may be useful to project managers considering using GCLs:

EPA600R93171 Report of Workshop on Geosynthetic Clay Liners (1993, 120 p.); and

The later sections of the 1993 report cover the kind of issues an RPM would be thinking about, especially for applications in bottom liners. Links to both of these reports can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/clariton/clhtml/pubtitle.old.html>. Current research on GCL slope stability can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/ordntrnt/ORD/NRMRL/rcb/contaip1.html>. You can also get site-specific assistance via EPA's Engineering Technical Support Center (513-487-2588).

### ***In Situ Thermal Conference***

Jim Cummings (TIO) will be traveling to Region 6 in May to conduct an in situ thermal seminar for RPMs. He is considering organizing a national workshop and developing a website for RPMs who work on treatment sites. Camille will speak with Jim about possible EF participation in organizing the national conference.

### **NEXT ENGINEERING FORUM TELECONFERENCE CALL**

The next Engineering Forum conference call is scheduled for Wednesday, March 7, 2001, from 12:30-2:00 pm EST. The call in number is 202-260-7280, and the access code is 8878#. Steve Kinser will be the co-chair lead for the call.

### **Attendees**

Ray Cody, Region 1  
Sharon Hayes, Region 1  
Chet Janowski, Region 1  
Mark Granger, Region 2  
Rich Ho, Region 2  
Jon Josephs, Region 2  
Frank Vavra, Region 3  
Jon Bornholm, Region 4  
Roger Carlton, Region 4  
Galo Velasco-Jackson, Region 4  
Camille Hueni, Region 6  
Gene Keepper, Region 6  
Steve Kinser, Region 7  
Harold Ball, Region 9  
JoAnn Cola, Region 9  
Neil Thompson, Region 10  
Ken Brown NERL/Las Vegas

Trish Erickson, NRMRL/Cinc.  
Dave Reisman, NRMRL/Cinc.  
Marta Richards, NRMRL/Cinc.  
Dave Jaros, USACE  
Ed Mead, USACE  
Chung-Rei Mao, USACE  
Jim Harrington, NYSDEC  
Keith Arnold, EMS, Inc.